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**[0:00:11]**

BRUCE FETZER: Well, here we are, Monday, December 11th, 2017, and I'm Bruce Fetzer here with Tom Beaver. And, Tom, this is a very interesting section right here, because you're uniquely qualified to talk about John's spiritual search. You lived with him for 4 1/2—over 4 1/2 years, but the last 6 years you've been intensely studying his spiritual search and all the aspects of it. And so what's very interesting—

[Technical break.]

**[0:02:05]**

BRUCE FETZER: Well, here we are on Monday, December 11th, 2017, and I'm Bruce Fetzer with Tom Beaver, doing an oral history about John's spiritual search. And what I would say is that you're uniquely qualified for this section, because you lived with John for over 4 1/2 years, but then the last 6 years you've been intensely studying John's spiritual search, not just his own records and writings but also reference material. And so you've aptly titled this "John Fetzer Spinning His Wheels in the '70s."

And so, um, what we're going to do is we're going to kind of go through a smorgasbord of different topics that John, you know, involved himself in. And so the first one up that you've queued, and you've used a lot of John's quotes on this, which is exciting, but the first one you've queued up is his relationship and experience with Jeane Dixon.

**[0:03:02]**

TOM BEAVER: Yeah. So, as you say, we're kind of, um—we move out of this—the basics, I would say, where we, um, where we ended up sort of concluding with this notion of the subconscious mind, and, um, the "as above, so below" being a scientific/spiritual, um, sort of vision, and, uh, the subconscious mind being the interlude. And now we're—uh, John is

older. We're in the '60s and '70s, and I think, um, my guess—I mean, I wasn't with John until '86, and you weren't with him until '82. But it looks like, in this era, that he's sort of in a typical phase for people that are on a spiritual journey, and at some point they've got a little experience in it, it's not brand new to them, but they haven't really hit on the thing that they're going to, uh, do as a practice. And you come to this phase where you're kind of looking around for a practice, to see what you might settle in on.

So, uh, '60s and '70s was certainly a time of searching for, um, many, many people. Uh, the, uh, whole spiritual metaphysical side was probably more, uh, acceptable at that point than maybe ever before since, in America, as far as the mainstream, just having sort of casual acceptance of it, casual knowledge of it, because the Beatles went to India. The Beatles went to India in '68, and got into transcendental meditation.

**[0:04:46]**

So, uh, I think it was a time where the evidence of search expanded past just Western theosophy, Western, uh, Masonry, and now all of a sudden you had this, uh, TM thing come on. And there were centers that popped up. Um, I don't know about up in Michigan, because Michigan, especially western Michigan, was pretty fundamentalist. But John was going to—well, it would have to be because Caroline Daily and John would have done it up in Michigan. But there was a center in Tucson, so John, uh, saw the TM center in Tucson and got involved for a few years there.

So there's a smorgasbord, as you say, of things that John got into in the '60s and '70s, and first it looked like, in the late '60s, he, uh, hooked with Jeane Dixon. So that's sort of the first one we're going to hit on. Uh, by the late '60s, he, um, was, um, chosen as a 33rd Degree Mason, in '69, and in '68, he won this, uh, career—lifetime career award in Broadcasting. Uh, do you recall the name of that award? I think you've—I don't remember the name of the award.

**[0:06:05]**

BRUCE FETZER: The National Association of Broadcasters, and I think it was the Abe Lincoln Woodsplitter's Award, uh, or it was one of the National Lifetime Achievement Awards.

TOM BEAVER: Okay. And, uh, so there was a banquet honoring John for that, uh, broadcasting award, and his guests of honor, at that banquet, were Jeane Dixon and her husband. So John had gotten involved with Jeane Dixon, and, um, of course, Jeane Dixon was, um, was famous for being, uh, the person who predicted that Kennedy would be shot. That's what brought her fame, and then there was controversy about how legitimate her prediction was, and all that. But that's what made her famous, although Jeane Dixon was going into the White House and giving, um, psychic predictions for FDR in the '40s. So she had been around the scene in Washington, D.C.

**[0:07:04]**

Uh, there's a story I saw on the History Channel where she, uh, in '44, went into the White House and told FDR that he was dying of cancer. And so FDR was into this stuff, as we know, as a Mason and all. He took that, um, advice seriously, and said to her, "Okay, um, uh, tell me how—tell me what I have to do to heal myself." Uh, in other words, you're asking a psychic to do that. You want the psychic to check it out, you know, check it out on the inner and see—and give you advice, what does he have to do? And she, according to the TV show, according to this History Channel show, her answer to him was, "Well, you're going to—there's no cure. You're—there's no fix for you. You're going to die here in the next few months, so really get things lined up. Get it in order because you're going to be gone in a few months." And he was, you know. So he ended up going to the Yalta Conference and all that, very ill, and history looks at the Yalta Conference and thinks the U.S. sort of got taken advantage of by Stalin, because FDR was so sick.

**[0:08:20]**

But anyway, she was on the scene, but John got involved with her in the '60s, in the late '60s, to the extent that she was his guest of honor at this, uh, broadcast award. And then she had, um, she had something she was promoting at the time involving children, through the United Nations, and she wanted John to get behind that and to fund this mission about, uh, the UN—through the UN, funding—supporting children around the world.

Well, you know that, um, asking John for money is—was generally a good way to, um, move out of his sphere of influence, because John didn't like that. He didn't like people

approaching him for money. So what John did in this case was he went out in the broadcasting field and sent this letter out, saying, uh, to the CBS, uh, affiliates and the CBS execs, saying, uh, "Let's get behind this Jeane Dixon, uh, thing, for children, all of us." So instead of giving money, he, um, gave it some PR, I guess you would say.

BRUCE FETZER: Pass the hat.

**[0:09:44]**

TOM BEAVER: And the response that came back was no. So, uh, that sort of, uh, moved Jeane Dixon in and out of his sphere of influence pretty quickly. But the big feature was that she was—there are photographs of Jeane Dixon with John at that, uh, banquet, that she was his guest of honor.

BRUCE FETZER: And so shortly after that he moved into TM, then.

TOM BEAVER: Right. TM and the *Course in Miracles* popped up for him, uh, pretty, um, simultaneously, and I don't know exactly which one went first. But he was initiated into TM in 1975, and, um, right after that offered it to the Tigers, now as we know. So I've got a quote here about the TM thing. We, um, we don't have a quote by John on it, but we asked Carolyn Daily about it, who was his secretary at the time, and Carolyn Daily ended up sort of getting dragged around. Whatever John did, Carolyn got dragged around and did it too.

BRUCE FETZER: That's the way it would happen, absolutely.

**[0:10:57]**

TOM BEAVER: So here's a quote by Carolyn Daily, uh, in 2011, when, uh, as part of my project. Um, I said, "It was around 1975 when you and John got initiated into, uh, TM," and Carolyn said, "I think so because I had—I started working for him in '73, and by then he was interested in meditation practices, and then he got into transcendental meditation. Uh, what I know is he wanted to be initiated, and he was dragging me along with him. And my daughter became initiated in TM as well. We went somewhere. I don't remember where it was. Probably Detroit. But I remember that as we went there we had to take an offering, like you do in India, of fruit and flowers. So it was an offering to honor the master teacher and to show our intention."

And John got Rhea into it too. Rhea practiced transcendental meditation as well. And John started thinking that—you know, Rhea, by then, was showing signs of dementia. She was having car accidents. She might have even stopped driving by '75, because she'd had a series of accidents in Kalamazoo, minor ones, and the police sort of, I wouldn't say covered it up by they took care of her because it was Rhea Fetzer.

**[0:12:20]**

But, um, John started thinking, and hoping, that he could find a healing, uh, system that would work for Rhea and fix her, or help her, help heal her. So he had hopes that TM would do that. And there are quotes by Rhea, saying, uh, particular—she got initiated in Tucson, and saying, um, it's relaxing her, "I feel much more relaxed. The TM is working because I feel a lot more relaxed." So I think part of her condition early on was, um, uh, a nervous, uh, condition, because John even spoke of Rhea being—having high energy but, um, going into periods of being very nervous.

So, um, the TM thing lasted about three years, and by '78 or so there's a diary entry from Rhea saying, "The TM center in Tucson is now just a bunch of hippies and it's kind of run down and it's kind of over the hill." So, um, it was a fairly, uh, short pattern, but in a very short—fairly short time. But in that time, John, of course, being John, he—his interest was to go to the Maharishi, to do the practice so much. He wanted to met the head person.

**[0:13:37]**

So in L.A., um, he went to L.A. when the Maharishi was there, and got an audience with him, and, um, there is, uh, a quote by John about that, where he says, "We met in his quarters." Now this is in L.A. "The Maharishi was born in India and was highly educated as a physicist." So that's what impressed John, that the Maharishi was a scientist. So he was bringing forward this meditation technique but he was a physicist, so that's this dual thing that, for John, would hit the jackpot. It would push the right buttons for him.

BRUCE FETZER: It legitimizes it too, right, the science part.

**[0:14:19]**

TOM BEAVER: So John went on to say later in life he became a student of transcendental meditation, "became the rare combination of a scientist and a holy man." So

that was a big attraction to John. And then they went to—their next trip to Europe, John and Rhea, went to the Maharishi headquarters in Switzerland, and help him with—um, Maharishi wanted to do a series of, uh, buy a series of TV stations, uh, for TM. And John advised him on that, advised him not to do that, advised him to just do programming that would be spread across some UHF channels at the time, instead of buying stations, which John said was a very difficult deal and sort of a, uh, tricky political thing, and pretty complicated to get accomplished. So, um, he advised, uh, Maharishi to do, um, this other thing, which they did. And, uh, but by '78—so John was out of it.

So the TM thing as a meditation practice, of course, it's 20 minutes twice a day, if I remember. You get a mantra in the initiation, and, um, then it's 20 minutes twice a day. So, uh, they did do that for a period of three or four years, and Rhea did it as well.

**[0:15:41]**

But it didn't stick with John. I mean, TM sort of was a phase that hit the public, and came and went. But in the meantime, John offered it to the Tigers. The '75 Tigers were another one of the worst teams, uh, in the history of baseball. It was the worst team in the American League in '75. It had Mark "The Bird" Fidrych, this phenomenon, but that was about it. They were a big losing team. And so at the end of the '75 season, John offered TM to the Tigers, and it made the papers, made the Detroit papers, and, uh, Ralph Houk, the manager, did it. Bill Freehan, the catcher, did it. Um, we talked to Mickey Lolich, the pitcher, who, um, said he went to the intro but then he didn't do the initiation. And also, um, the centerfielder did it as well, and the name slips me—Ron LeFlore, the centerfielder. He did it as well. So those guys did take TM, and except for, um, Lolich, they did the initiation and everything.

So the press had a little fun with that in Detroit, but really it was a time when that kind of thing wasn't—was commonplace in America, more or less. So they had a little fun with it but they didn't hit too hard, you know. The press sort of accepted it because a lot of people were doing, uh, TM.

BRUCE FETZER: It couldn't hurt at that point.

[Laughter.]

**[0:17:09]**

TOM BEAVER: Well, but, you know, John didn't want publicity, so the publicity side of it, and him taking TM, he would have reacted to that. He wouldn't have wanted that. You know, John was called "the hermit of Kalamazoo" by the Detroit press. As owner of the Tigers, they called hermit of Kalamazoo, and he was proud of that designation. So, you know, he was living in this small town of Kalamazoo, Michigan, in this fairly humble house for a man of his means. You know, it was the same house that I lived at with him, and that you're familiar with.

[0:17:44]

BRUCE FETZER: Well, about that time, he really expanded his search quite considerably. I know that he came across Judy Whitson at the time, who was Judy Skutch Whitson, and she actually had a foundation, the Foundation for the Study of Parapsychology.

TOM BEAVER: Right.

BRUCE FETZER: But she knew a lot of these people in the field, of the paranormal, of the supernatural, and what she did is she introduced him to scores of people. Some of the folks he introduced her to included Itzhak Bentov, *Stalking the Wild Pendulum*; Bill Tilitier [ph]; Stan Krippner; um, Micihael Murphy of Esalen; um, Ian Stevenson, uh—

TOM BEAVER: *Life After Life*.

BRUCE FETZER: —*Life After Life*; J.B. Rhine of the Duke lab. And then Quail Ruste [ph], which actually led to the introduction of Bob John [ph] and Brenda Dunn [ph], his sidekick. Um, but most importantly, um, there's the story of not just meeting all of these people but the *Course in Miracles*. So do you want to comment about—

[0:18:55]

TOM BEAVER: I'm going to—I'll stick another one in first. Ed Mitchell. Judy introduced John to Ed Mitchell, or, uh, he went to Chicago and saw Ed Mitchell, and I think Judy was there, seeing Ed as well, so the three of them got together very quickly. And Ed, of course, was, um, in that era where he was found, uh, Institute of Noetic Sciences, um, after his trip to the moon. Ed told us—he told me at dinner once that he had this, uh, mystical experience on the trip home from the moon, um, and he said, um, he could re-induce that experience in him, uh, for the rest of his life, by doing a certain thing, like happened at the moon where he was—he spent three days just, uh, looking out the window, because his job was done. On the trip home from

the moon, Ed Mitchell's job was done. His job was to take the lander down to the moon and up again, and then his job was done.

So he spent three days looking out of the window and seeing the stars, and then the Earth would come into the, uh, round window. And he had this, uh, mystical experience, an out-of-body type experience. So Ed founded IONS, which is still, of course, a vibrant organization, out of this area, you know. We're in San Rafael, California and it's in Petaluma, just north of here. It was in Sausalito before that. And John was one of the original IONS board members, one of the early ones—I don't know if he was one of the original ones. That might be, uh, that might be hard to pin down. But he was one of the early board members, as was Judy. Judy was an early board member, and as was Glenn Olds.

BRUCE FETZER: Glenn Olds, right.

**[0:20:40]**

TOM BEAVER: So he ran across, uh, Glenn Olds at that time, through that as well.

Now, uh, the IONS board at that time—and I think it still is, although I've never been that involved with IONS—but it was sort of a board you got on by contributing. It was a contributor's board. So you might write a check for \$10,000 and then you were on the IONS board, and expected to re-up the next year, I would assume, and then keep your board membership.

And again, for John, you know, um, the idea that he would have to write this check every year, and then he's supporting some other spiritual effort, I think for John what that turned into was, why don't I do my own, you know? I would like to—I'm a man of means. I'm of a certain age. I would like to start my own organization here, um, with similar, um, similar types of goals. You know, consciousness, um, a scientific view of, uh, meditation and a scientific view of the spiritual process, uh, similar to what IONS has been doing all the time. And, of course, we know that in the '90s, um, when Franklin, who was the head of IONS, was on the Fetzer board, and IONS and Fetzer because sort of sister organizations in the '90s, it was almost like, uh, IONS was Fetzer West and the center in Petaluma, the money to do that for IONS came from Fetzer. So, uh, they were close at that time, again.

**[0:22:19]**



But John was on the board for a couple of years, and then I think he didn't—I think, for John, the idea of giving somebody else money to do this mission wasn't, uh, wasn't the way he wanted to go. But he and Ed were always friends, and, uh, uh, Ed Mitchell, of course, became involved with the UFO thing, because he was from Roswell. He grew up in Roswell. So we'll touch on UFOs here in a minute.

But through Judy, then, of course, she was, um, in New York City, as the head of the New York City Parapsychological Association, or a name similar to that. It was some such organization, title like that. And she ran across Helen Schucman, who was, uh, a professor of psychology at, uh, Columbia University, and Helen Schucman, uh, a Jewish lady, as was Judy, so they probably, you know, had this common thing and they were friends. And Helen started, uh, doing automatic handwriting, um, which she dared not tell anybody at Columbia because she was a professor there. So it was one of these things where, um, it would have been out of bounds for her to be doing something like automatic handwriting.

But she started channeling and, um, it was, uh, Jesus that was telling her this is who is being channeled, and she shared it with Judy, and Judy shared it with John, and it became this thing called *A Course of Miracles*, which has been Judy's project, really, for the rest of her life, *A Course of Miracles*.

**[0:24:10]**

So, um, John had had some kind of, uh, event, right at that time, uh, a health event, that Judy called a heart attack. So I don't know if it was a heart attack but that's how Judy phrased it. In fact, Judy's story was, um, uh, John had it in New York City, and he was in a hotel in New York City, and going through this event, this heart attack event. And Judy said that Helen Schucman rang Judy up and said, "Where's John?" And so she knew something was going on, and Judy and, uh, Helen Schucman found John in his hotel room, in New York City, and, uh, you know, got help for him, and all that stuff.

So for John, then, uh, *A Course of Miracles* became a big thing for him, really for the rest of his life, but particularly in that period. When he made a type of statement to Judy like, uh, something like, "This is what I've been looking for. You know, you've brought me something that I've been looking for." In fact, Judy said that John said to her, "This is the reason I got had a

heart attack, was so I would be laid up for a while and have the time to read through this material that you gave me. That's the reason it all happened." Um, because *A Course of Miracles* was a couple of great big volumes, you know, and it's not easy reading. So it's the type of thing where you sort of read a page at a time and that's it, because it's, uh, it's, um, highly metaphysical, highly spiritual material.

**[0:25:55]**

Um, uh, Bill Thetford, who is Helen Schucman's partner, had—was raised a Christian Scientist, so he was involved in the project, and it comes out sounding a lot like Christian Science to me. I mean, I was raised a Christian Scientist. So I'd never studied *A Course of Miracles* in detail, but I read some of it, and then I thought, well, I'm just reading Christian Science here. I grew up with this stuff. I understand the whole premise, the non-dualistic, uh, approach to spirituality, which, in a nutshell, sort of goes, the physical world doesn't exist, that all there is is the spiritual world, that the physical world is a dream. And, uh, in Christian Science, uh, was called Adam's Dream, but, um, Judy has called it a dream, that we wake up from, and then you're in this reality which is the spiritual world.

But the writings, then, are written from the approach that just live in the spiritual world, and if you just live in the spiritual world and you follow these teachings of the spiritual world, that your whole life will be transformed by that. That's the premise of it.

**[0:27:14]**

BRUCE FETZER: Right. And it has some very solid concepts, like fear is the opposite of love, um, this world is an illusion, a dream, it's very—you know, we're trapped in our own concepts. Separation is an illusion. All of these types of things. You know, it sold over 3 million copies. It's now in 27 or 29 countries, translations. And, uh, there have been over 500 spinoff books, most of them best-sellers, um, based on the concepts of *A Course of Miracles*. So it's really spawned a pretty remarkable, uh, movement, uh, worldwide.

TOM BEAVER: Oh, Sure.

BRUCE FETZER: And you can see how John embraced this, is to say, hey, this is a completely different way of looking at the world.

TOM BEAVER: Sure. That's right. And the offshoot of it is, um—was, um, um, geez—what is the organization that was the offshoot of it? And Carolyn Daily, um, ran the Center in Kalamazoo.

BRUCE FETZER: Well, yeah. She, yeah. So she founded the Foundation of Inner Peace.

TOM BEAVER: Judy did.

BRUCE FETZER: Judy did, but what came out of this is Attitudinal Healing.

TOM BEAVER: Attitudinal Healing Centers.

**[0:28:22]**

BRUCE FETZER: You know, Jerry Jampolsky was one of the offshoots of this, and that spread like wildfire, you know. The predecessor of support groups, self-help support groups.

TOM BEAVER: And Jerry, of course, that work was funded by John as well, because Jerry was at dinner with us in Hawaii, even, at the house, and, um, Attitudinal Healing, I think—I believe, started out, uh, at least, as, um, dealing with, um, children who had terminal diseases, and, um, the group support of that. And then it expanded into a larger thing, um, and there was a center here in Kalamazoo—not here in Kalamazoo but a center in Kalamazoo that Carolyn Daily, um, when she, uh, stopped being John's, um, uh, secretary, you know, she started an Attitudinal Healing Center in Kalamazoo and ran that for several years.

BRUCE FETZER: Yeah. The Institute actually supported, uh, development of over 100 centers worldwide.

**[0:29:27]**

TOM BEAVER: Here's a quote by Judy, Bruce. I have a quote here where Judy is talking about introducing the course to John.

BRUCE FETZER: Okay.

TOM BEAVER: And, um, uh, this is an interview, uh, we did with Judy, and she said, "In '75, John had a very serious heart attack." So I don't know if it really was a heart attack but that's how she's reporting it here, and, uh, you know, historically I'm not sure if that's what it was. But he had a serious health event and she's calling it a heart attack. "And I called him to tell him about the course. A month later he called me back and said, 'Now I know why I had my

heart attack. It was so I could stop working and just read this." Yeah. And then Judy said, "And the two of them, John and Helen Schucman, my goodness." So they became fast friends.

And you know John. He would go right to the source. So his big interest was to go to the channeler. So for John, this was a channeled situation, and mediums, psychics, channelers, are of high interest to him. And so he developed a relationship with Helen, which was unusual. She wasn't, uh, uh, a person who made friends. She kept to herself. She was not considered a friendly person. But yet John won her over and she and John became close friends.

**[0:30:59]**

And again, with Rhea, Rhea got involved in *A Course of Miracles*, and with Rhea, uh, I think part of John's attraction to the course was he was hoping that it would heal Rhea. So here's a quote, um, uh, from Rhea's diary, uh, where she says, uh, she had an episode in Tucson, a serious episode. Rhea had a serious episode in Tucson. And she says, "That evening I called Judy Skutch, who was at a dinner party in San Francisco. Most of the people were studying Judy's *Course of Miracles* material. Everyone at the table held hands, on behalf of me, sending faith and love. This is a most helpful experience, because this really was the hour of crisis."

And then Rhea went on to say, uh, a little later "Judy Skutch has arrived from San Francisco and immediately went to the hospital to see me. Judy talked with me for about three hours. I'm now sitting up and quite responsive and feeling much better." And then, uh, a few days later she writes, in her diary, "I took the *Course in Miracles* workshop to the hospital and I'm now having two sessions a day."

**[0:32:22]**

So, uh, again, her condition being, uh, a mental condition, you know, she ended up with dementia, with some form of dementia. Uh, Alzheimer's wasn't known much about in the '80s, so whether it was Alzheimer's or not, I don't think anybody could say for sure. But some form of mental dementia is what was developing with her. And John was hoping that, uh, *A Course of Miracles* would heal her. He was hoping. He was hopeful. He was looking for a solution for her. So in the '70s, I think that became part of his search. It was his personal search, but he was also looking for things that would help, uh, help Rhea.

**[0:33:06]**

BRUCE FETZER: Absolutely. You know, about this time, also, um, he developed a very keen interest in UFOs. So what's the back story about, uh, how he actually was put onto this?

TOM BEAVER: Yeah. Yeah. UFOs is another thing that happened at this time. Um, well, I've got a quote here from, uh, from a speech John gave in 1974. He called the speech "The Flying Saucer Hoax." He gave it in Kalamazoo. But it actually was a pro-UFO speech. So the title was a deceptive title. And, uh, John said—I mean, here are just a couple of clips from that. "My interest in the subject dates back to 1944, when I was a United States sensor of radio in Washington, towards the end of World War II. You will recall that in the middle of the war Hitler was bragging about this secret weapon. Almost simultaneously, I received highly classified reports that our airmen flying over Germany were being confronted at night with silver balls of light, which insisted in flying in circles around their planes, particularly when they are on bombing runs over the Rhine River. Our flying men called these unknowns "foo fighters" because they danced just off their allied fighters' wing tips and played tag with them and power dives."

So these lights would go into the engines and shut the engines off, of the planes. So nobody knows, to this day, what those "foo fighters" were, but for John, he concluded they were UFOs, and that started his interest.

**[0:34:47]**

So in this speech, John caps it off by saying, in this speech in '74, "The Flying Saucer Hoax," he says, "The UFO problem embodies an urgency which defies expression. Certainly procrastination is no solution. I believe it's time we mustered the top scientific talent in this country, even at the expense of changing the NASA program goals, and begin a hard scientific study to determine the existence and purpose of the UFOs which are assumed to be extraterrestrial vehicles."

So John, of course, then, we know, he met Allen Hynek. I don't know if he met Allen Hynek through Judy or how he met him. But he befriended Allen Hynek, who was the head of Project Blue Book, the UFO sort of cover-up program about UFOs, and Hynek was a professor at, um, University of Colorado, I think, and they put him in charge. And then Hynek, after, um,

a short time, a few years, a couple of years—I don't know exactly—he left the program because he didn't like the cover-up aspect, and he started appearing on talk shows at the time, saying, you know, "I said this is all phony, but now that I'm not working for the Air Force I'm here to say, you know, 5 to 10 percent of these reports seem very authentic, and completely inexplicable." So Hynek switched sides, uh, and he and John were friends.

And this sort of leads into, um, the next topic, which is, uh, the whole Lay Initiates thing that John got peripherally involved with in the '70s, because it involves UFOs.

**[0:36:37]**

BRUCE FETZER: Well, before we go on to this, I want to develop the UFO story a little bit more, because John carried that through into the '80s. And so I think it would be interesting, at least for history, uh, to talk about some of your personal interactions. I'm sure that John talked to you about, uh, UFOs. He talked to me about it, well into the '80s, uh, where they would have sightings and we would have discussions about it, and we talked about, you know, um, the reality, or, you know, of life from other planets.

But did you and John discuss any stories about UFOs?

TOM BEAVER: Well, casually, sure, because, um, I was a UFO fan. I had one decent experience involving UFOs and a second one in the last 10 years, actually, in L.A., on the ocean, on the coast. Uh, there were sightings being filmed. A certain type of thing was happening in Santa Monica, um, and I was walking my dog one day and there it was, you know. I saw exactly what the—what was being filmed in Santa Monica at the time.

**[0:37:52]**

So for John and I it was one of those—one of these things that was just a casual acceptance, and what he talked to me about was, um, uh, Hynek, you know, that his befriending Hynek, and Hynek just said to him, "These are—this is a real phenomenon. This is not make believe." And, um, uh, so, you know, whatever—if he told you interesting particular stories, you know, go ahead and put it on the film because it would be interesting. For us it was just one of those things that we both believed in UFOs.

Now I will say this. In the '60s, there were UFO sightings, um, over Lake Michigan. It was a pretty ongoing thing over—out at South Haven way, which is directly west of Kalamazoo.

There were sightings over the lake. Gerald Ford got involved with it. Gerald Ford, who was the Congressman for the Grand Rapids area, he called for investigations into the UFO, uh, phenomena at the time, because he was just getting a lot of complaints from constituents, you know, who were scared.

And, uh, so, it was a thing in the '60s. No question about it.

**[0:39:00]**

BRUCE FETZER: Well, so, the types of things that John and I would talk about is he very much believed in UFO abduction story. Uh, very much believed that there were aliens, uh, walking among us. Uh, in fact, we talked in detail about two people he believed were aliens, uh, and he just accepted, as a matter of fact, that, you know, we're not alone. And so, you know, the whole idea of—and this also goes into his cosmology, about, you know, these different planes, about, you know, um, uh, hyper-transportation, uh, about all of these advanced, uh, technologies that may have been harnessed by other races that are here to—some to assist.

And so he very much had this idea that we're not alone in the universe, and that there is special help, not just from spirit but also from different dimensions of the physical. And so I think that's the part of the story I think that I'd like to put on the table, without getting into the specific stories. I mean, this is where—

**[0:40:07]**

TOM BEAVER: Sure, because it fits the notion, Bruce, that there's not a spiritual world and a physical world, but rather there's a, um, there's an arch of, uh, of, um, it's a spectrum. There's a spectrum of energies that have one extreme and the other, and everything in between. So you hit this—under that theory, you hit this region that may seem spiritual to us, but it's just a part of the physical at a higher frequency that we don't understand yet, that we don't have instrumentation for yet.

And even, um, the quantum physics program of Bohmian quantum physics that Fetzner's studying is promoting right now, uh, doesn't study that, but some of the scientists that are involved in that have this general, broader theory that there—that there are—that Einstein's equations are as limited as Newtonian equations were limited, and that the math will proceed

and expand and extend into these regions that we now consider to be, um, spiritual, and may just be in this transition, some kind of transition zone, where science will expand, um, more and more into what we now consider, um, magical or, um, spiritual. Um, but 100 years from now, or even 30 years from now, uh, quantum physics expanding as quickly as it is, and quantum computing coming on board, so the theory has to expand to stay one step ahead of the technology that the whole UFO thing might come into play.

**[0:41:56]**

I mean, you and I both know there are people around Fetzer that have been around Fetzer for years and years and years that are part of, uh, government programs involving UFOs. We know that. So the governments know, um. I mean, in sounds conspiratorial to say the government is covering things up. But, you know, the European governments are releasing their UFO materials. It's really just the American government that's still dragging its feet.

**[0:42:24]**

BRUCE FETZER: So John was very comfortable with that, because that fit his cosmology. So let's get into the, um, Killick story, because I think this goes one step further from the—you know, from the '70s to more of the mystical part.

TOM BEAVER: Yeah, it set up an interesting transition.

BRUCE FETZER: Right.

TOM BEAVER: So there's this—I mean, one person that we interviewed was named Jim Keating, and Jim Keating was a professor at, um, Nazareth College, or a teacher. He was a teacher at Nazareth College in the '70s, in Kalamazoo. And when—in the early '70s, when John was getting the Institute—the Fetzer Foundation going and decided that parapsychology would be the, um, the avenue, he put out letters to universities all over the world, of do they have interest, and just looking for networking—partners, networks. And he got responses from—he got a response from Nazareth College in Kalamazoo, because Keating was on staff, and he was teaching a course in, um, meditation. It was a non-credit course.

**[0:43:35]**

It was on the weekends or something, but then it turned into a for-credit course, and then one of his students—so these are interviews that Keating gave to us, but I've known Jim



Keating for many years. And he said, um, one of the students then said, "You know, I have, uh, uh, an uncle who lives in Toronto who can teach us how to get out of—how to travel out of body." So Keating said, "Okay. We'll try." They brought the guy over, and it worked for Jim. The technique worked. And then this guy said, "Well, we have a group in Toronto, and, um, the head of it is a guy named Ken Killick. He's really the head of it." And they started bring Killick over into the Kalamazoo area.

**[0:44:25]**

But a couple of their big followers were in Allegan, Michigan, uh, which is between Kalamazoo and Lake Michigan, and these people lived on a lake, Dumont Lake. They're the Hardys, Mary and—what was her husband's name? I forget, but they were the Hardys. He died and Mary is still alive, although she is very old. But they were bringing Killick to their house, and part of their story involved, there were UFO sightings over Lake Dumont, and the Hardys were involved in those UFO sightings. In fact, their story includes the fact that, uh, one of their children became autistic after seeing a UFO. That was part of the Hardy story.

Well, uh, the Hardys and Ken Killick, together, decided to build two small pyramids on their property, and John just heard about all of this. He heard about the pyramids. He heard about the Hardys. He heard about Killick. And he made several trips to the Hardys' house in, uh, on Lake Dumont, because Rhea would write about it in her diary, that sometimes she went along. They would go see the Hardys. Ken Killick would be there. Jim Keating would be there. And John actually put Jim Keating on his, uh, the Fetzer Foundation board for a couple of years, around '74, '75, right in this same era.

**[0:46:02]**

So what's interesting about this group, this group of people, uh, in Toronto it was called Lay Initiates, a French name, so maybe it was Montreal. Lay Initiates would make more sense for Montreal, but I think it was Toronto. They started a branch in America and got papers from the government. They got, uh, tax status as a nonprofit from the IRS. And, um, John never became a member of the group, but he would go to the Hardys' house in Lake Dumont and he befriended Keating, who was a part of the Lay Initiates group. Well, the head of this group in Lake Dumont, in Allegan, was a guy named Lloyd Swierenga. He was the head of it. And, um,

one of the, uh, people who associated with them was a lady named Cleora Daily. And Cleora met the Hardys on a trip to Egypt. That's how she met the Hardys, and then they were bringing her to their house. Mary Hardy was on this trip to Egypt that Cleora was on.

**[0:47:13]**

And so, uh, what you have is, out of this little group of Lay Initiates, you have Jim Keating, who was on the board of directors of the Fetzer Foundation for a couple of years. You have Lloyd Swierenga, who became executive vice president of the Institute—of the Foundation, as you know, in—

BRUCE FETZER: —'85.

TOM BEAVER: —'85, and John was president but John was coming out of a heart attack so Lloyd was really running the show. And the executive group was Lloyd and you and Chuck Spence, who was Cleora Daily's husband—

BRUCE FETZER: —and Carolyn Daily.

TOM BEAVER: —and Carolyn Daily. And then you have Carolyn Daily, who came out of that, uh, group as well, was in the Monday night group, and then became Jim Gordon's best friend, and she and Jim Gordon are still best friends, to this day. And in the few years I lived in Kalamazoo, the four or five years I lived in Kalamazoo with John, Cleora was really my best friend in town.

So these people, this group of people who came out of Lay Initiates, uh, sort of became the seeds that, um, formed a lot of the backbone of the whole Fetzer Foundation, and the Monday night group in the early 1980s. So they're important for that, for the people who came out of it. Uh, their metaphysical philosophy had a lot to do with, um, their ley lines on the earth, and which they thought affected, um, weather on the Earth, and they thought that the, uh, Navy programs with low-frequency, um, uh, transmission, with the Navy particularly, was upsetting—

**[0:48:54]**

BRUCE FETZER: The ELF antenna in northern Michigan.

TOM BEAVER: —right, was upsetting weather patterns. And so they would plant light columns, um, at places that they thought would counter the ELF, low frequency radiation. Uh,

Mary Hardy told me that they thought they had headed off a hurricane in the New Orleans area by doing that. So a lot of their—it's a little—it's kind of, um—I went to one of their weekend events in Lake Dumont, as part of this project, because they were still holding them. It wasn't Mary still doing it but they would have a long weekend at their house in the summer, and there would be 200 to 300 people there. But it was pretty far-out stuff. Uh, it was, uh, it was a lot of fun, but it was pretty far-out stuff.

But John—you know, Mary did John. He went there several times. He crawled into one of their little pyramids, because John was interested in pyramids too, you know. And, um, I've got a quote when we get to Jim Gordon and the channelings where, you know, Jim channels the idea that a pyramid for the shape of the building would be a great idea.

**[0:50:08]**

BRUCE FETZER: And John Fetzer asked my brother, Brian, who was a general contractor, to actually build a pyramid for him. That never happened.

But in any event, what's the takeaway with Ken Killick, because that's the main character out of this.

TOM BEAVER: Yeah. So Ken became, uh, uh—I would assume he went on the payroll and became John's personal psychic at the time. So he might have been John's first personal psychic on the payroll, outside of the—

BRUCE FETZER: Yeah. He got a stipend, right.

TOM BEAVER: —two mediums that he trusted at Camp Chesterfield, who I would assume he just paid them a fee when he went down there for a reading, like anybody else. But Killick became an important person to John, and was giving him financial advice, advising him on baseball matters. Killick became very involved with John. And there's one little letter from John to Killick, where John talks about Killick as if he's, uh, Maitreya, the theosophical second coming of Christ.

**[0:51:11]**

So there was a moment in time where Killick was very important, and that—but when—so this was '78, '79, '80. But when Jim came on the scene in '81, Killick very quickly fell off the cliff and, uh, disappeared, and, uh, Jim became the guy, because Jim was not interested in

advising him on finances or baseball. Jim was just channeling—as we'll see—channeling the Great White Brotherhood, talking about the Fetzer Foundation, in very, um, spiritual terms, and, uh, I think, uh, for John, he thought—he decided that Killick was getting a little too close to his personal life, and, and, and wanting to advise him in very personal things, practical things. And John might have been okay for that—with that for a minute, but I think he got uncomfortable with it.

And he told—you know, you know of a story that John told you, where he gave—Killick gave John some bad advice on a baseball situation.

BRUCE FETZER: On the baseball strike.

TOM BEAVER: On the strike that happened at the time.

BRUCE FETZER: Seriously embarrassed John, and that was the beginning of the end. Right.

TOM BEAVER: Yeah.

**[0:52:22]**

BRUCE FETZER: But one of the offshoots of this, is that Lay Initiates, uh, in the U.S., which was registered as a church, uh, was what became, eventually, Inner Light Ministries. So that was back all the way up to 1986.

TOM BEAVER: And it was just a name change. A name change of the organization, and I had a letter in the files from the IRS saying changing the name of the organization does not change the tax status.

BRUCE FETZER: Right.

TOM BEAVER: So instead of having to try to get tax status for ILM, which evidently was a lot harder to do in 1986 than it would have been to do in 1974, uh, he was able to just change—get this organization. He became the—John became the president of it. Lloyd Swierenga was the president and then John was the president and Lloyd the vice president, then John was the president and Jim Gordon was the vice president, and it became Inner Light Ministries. So that was the easy way to do that.

**[0:53:24]**

BRUCE FETZER: So that wraps the whole story together. Well, um, that's really, uh, comes to the end of our time about kind of the—you know, the—almost a random search in the '70s, and so we're going to go next into, you know, more focused—

TOM BEAVER: Where John tried TM but he didn't stick with it, so he's still looking for an inner path. Uh, there's a quote. I can end it with this quote, if I can find it.

BRUCE FETZER: Okay.

TOM BEAVER: In 1974, he gave a quote in *Psychic* magazine. *Psychic* magazine had done, um, an issue on men in business. I'll see if I've got the quote here. Yeah. And John agreed to be interviewed for that, where John said, uh, "Success is a thing that I've always taken for granted and I suspect it's because I trust intuition, to the point that I don't make enough wrong decisions to undermine a successful rhythm. I literally order the subconscious mind to do research and come up with answers, and ultimately I find the answers."

And then John said, "I don't have a meditation practice yet, but I know that's an important thing, and I'm still looking for one."

So, by 1980, he's still sitting there without a meditation practice that really hit home for him. But then Jim Gordon shows up, which will be the start of the next interview.

BRUCE FETZER: Thank you, Tom. This has been very instructive.

TOM BEAVER: Yeah. You're welcome.

BRUCE FETZER: All right. We're going to cut now.

[0:55:13]